

45. (Added)

GT
Sub H 97
A thermoforming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said template conveyor comprises a carousel conveyor having at least three arms angularly spaced apart each supporting a respective receiving template.

43. (Amended)

A thermoforming apparatus comprising:

a thermoforming machine fitted with at least one female die; and

extraction pick-up means adapted to withdraw a thermoformed article from the female die and to transfer it to a receiving station, said extraction pick-up means including a receiving seat for each thermoformed article to be extracted,

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Sub H 97
wherein the thermoforming machine is fitted with at least one counter-die, the at least one female die and counter-die being reciprocally approachable and removable for the operations of closing, thermoforming and opening,

the apparatus further comprising a feeder for feeding thermoforming material between each female die and counter-die, and

wherein the receiving station is a receiving conveying template including retention surfaces adapted to engage each thermoformed article, at least one surface of said retention surfaces being defined by at least a portion of a wall of a cavity in an element associated with the conveying template, the cavity communicating with at least one exterior surface of the element and having an interior dimension which is smallest

G2 Sub H87
in a region remote from said exterior surface to define a shoulder thereat for resiliently holding a thermoformed article disposed in the cavity.

5. (Amended)

A thermoforming apparatus as claimed in claim 43, further comprising:

G3 Sub H17
a chain conveyor wound by a pair of chain wheels and having a run thereof extending along the respective die or counter-die but beyond the encumbrance thereof;

and

wherein said extraction pick-up means comprises a plurality of extraction plates carried at predetermined intervals from each other on said conveyor, each extraction plate being fitted with receiving holes with equatorial shoulders for retaining the thermoformed articles in proper orientation during their conveyance.

8. (Amended)

G4 Sub H47
A thermoforming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said template conveyor is a chain conveyor which comprises a pair of chain wheels around which a respective chain is wound, a plurality of said conveying templates carried, spaced at a predetermined distance from each other, on said chain conveyor and each fitted with equatorial shoulders retaining the thermoformed articles in proper orientation during their conveyance.

15. (Amended)

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Sub I 17
A thermoforming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the thermoformed articles have rims and wherein said conveying template includes a two-diameter adaptor collar installable in a receiving seat of an opening in said conveying template, said adaptor collar providing said receiving hole in said conveying template and having an internal diameter delimited by a tapered upper section, an undercut intermediate section, and an annular shoulder downstream of the undercut section, for receiving a thermoformed article and snap-engage its rim at said undercut section.
